

REMARKS

In the Advisory Action mailed on December 28, 2007 in the above-identified application, the Examiner refused entry of the applicant's Amendment After Final Under 37 CFR 1.116 filed on December 10, 2007 on the grounds that the proposed amendments being filed raised new issues that would require further consideration and/or search. The Examiner then in the Note attached to the Advisory Action stated that "[i]ndependent claims 1, 7, 8 and 9 have been amended to include new limitations that would require further search/consideration."

Applicant wishes to point out, however, as applicant has previously noted in the Amendment After Final, that the new language included in the claims is language believed to be suggested by the Examiner as patentably distinguishing over the Kudo reference. More particularly, in the final Office Action dated November 29, 2007, the Examiner stated that "[t]he claim language does not specifically require that the operation member itself is automatically forced to be suppressed to a third position different from each of the first and second position when said operation member is not operated by a user" and "[t]herefore, the claim language does not precluding in a camera user in Kudo reference to inherently suppress the dial 206 . . ."

Based on this suggestion by the Examiner, applicant amended independent claims 1, 7, 8 and 9 to include language that the "operation member . . . further itself is automatically suppressed." Applicant believed that this would result in allowance of the application and would not be considered by the Examiner to raise new issues requiring further search/consideration. Instead, the Examiner issued the Advisory Action to that effect.

In any case, it is noted that these features added to the claims are supported in the description in applicant's specification at page 20, line 21 to page 21, line 2. It is also

respectfully submitted that they patentably distinguish applicant's claims over the Kudo and Ejima references.

Accordingly, entry of this Supplemental Response and the Amendment After Final is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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